

Louisiana Geofacts Question Sheet

1. **Driskill Mountain** was named for _____, and is the highest natural point in Louisiana, at _____ feet (_____ meters) above sea level.
2. _____ has the lowest, flattest, and geologically youngest setting of any major city within **Louisiana** and the **United States**.
3. Parts of **New Orleans** lie about _____ feet (_____ meters) below sea level.
4. The fastest growing natural features in Louisiana are the _____ and _____ **deltas**.
5. _____ and _____ **Parishes** are the fastest vanishing land areas in Louisiana which are the _____ and _____ basins.
6. Louisiana contains _____ percent of the nation's **wetlands**, but is experiencing about _____ percent of the country's wetland loss
7. Since the 1930's, more than _____ acres of **wetlands**, an area _____ percent larger than Rhode Island, has disappeared into the Gulf of Mexico.
8. The oldest recognizable shoreline feature in Louisiana is the _____ in northern **Calcasieu Parish**.
9. Although its age is still not precisely known, this ancient beach ridge is estimated to be from _____ to _____ years old—a period when **sea levels** were slightly higher than they are now.
10. The strangest landform in Louisiana is located on the **Pleistocene coastal terraces** that form the coastal plain of southwest Louisiana called "_____."
11. _____ is the largest **natural water body** in the state, being about 40 miles (65 km) long, 25 miles (40 km) wide, and 10 to 16 feet (3 to 5 meters) deep.
12. Along with _____ and Lake Pontchartrain the two lakes comprise one of the largest **estuaries** in the United States.
13. This **barrier island** chain, called the "_____" created the gulfward boundary of an ancient Pontchartrain Bay.
14. About _____, the _____ built out across the New Orleans area and over the Pine Island Barrier burying it creating **Lake Pontchartrain**.
15. _____ is the largest **engineered lake** in the southeastern United States.
16. **Toledo Bend Reservoir** is the fifth largest reservoir in the southeast, covering over _____ acres. The controlled storage capacity of **Toledo Bend Reservoir** is _____ acre-feet (5.52 km³).
17. The **Great Mississippi Flood of 1927** affected the entire Mississippi alluvial valley inundating more than _____ acres (66.8 ha).
18. At **Red River Landing**, the flood lasted 135 days and reached a crest of _____ (21.2 meters).
19. During the **Ice Age** the Antarctica and Greenland ice sheets, stored enough water to have dropped sea level by _____ to _____ (100 to 120 meters).
20. The development of the **Antarctic** and **Greenland** ice sheets shifted Louisiana's coastline southward dropping sea level by _____ (62 meters).
21. During the Ice Age the change in sea level resulted in Louisiana's **coastline** extending southward as much as _____ (150 km).
22. The oldest exposed rocks in Louisiana are small patches of **Late Cretaceous** marine rocks that outcrop along the edges of the _____ salt domes.
23. The next oldest is the **Midway Formation** in Caddo Parish, and consist of marine mudstones exposed along the southeast edge of Caddo Lake deposited about _____ years ago.
24. _____ is the Louisiana state **gemstone**.
25. _____ is the Louisiana state **fossil**.
26. The largest fossils found in Louisiana are the bones of _____, a primitive **whale** called by paleontologists "_____"
27. The oldest fossils found in Louisiana are **Paleozoic** marine invertebrates found in the gravel-bearing sands called the _____.
28. These **invertebrate fossils** once lived in shallow seas that covered most of the central part of North America between _____ years ago.
29. The **youngest fossils** found consist of the bones of _____ and the _____ of various terrestrial and freshwater mollusks.
30. The fossil **mollusca** and **mastodons** range in age from _____ to _____ B.P.

Louisiana Geofacts Answer Sheet

1. James Christopher Driskill, 535, 163
2. New Orleans
3. 5, 1.6
4. Wax Lake, Atchafalaya
5. Lafourche, Terrebonne
6. 40, 80
7. 1,000,000, 25
8. Houston Ridge
9. 132,000, 110,00
10. Pimple Mounds
11. Lake Pontchartrain
12. Lake Maurepas
13. Pine Island Barrier
14. 3,000 B.P., St. Bernard Delta Complex
15. Toledo Bend Reservoir
16. 185,000, 4,477,000
17. 165 million
18. 69.9 feet
19. 330, 390 feet
20. 200 feet
21. 92 miles
22. Prothro and Rayburns
23. 55 to 66 million
24. Agate
25. Petrified palm wood
26. Basilosaurus cetoides, archaeocetes
27. Citronelle Formation or the Upland Complex
28. 320 to 480 million
29. Mastodons, shells
30. 10,000, 25,000